

## FALSE SMUT OF PALMS

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False smut leafspot, caused by *Graphiola phoenicis* (Moug.) Poit., is found on 11 genera of palms in Florida: *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* (Grisebach et Wendland) Wendland ex Beccari, *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* (Chamisso) Beccari, *Butia capitata* (Martius) Beccari, *Coccothrinax argentata* (Jacquin) Bailey, *Phoenix canariensis* Hortorum ex Chabaud, *P. dactylifera* Linnaeus, *P. reclinata* Jacquin, *P. roebelenii* O'Brien, *Roystonea oleracea* (Jacquin) Cook, *Sabal palmetto* (Walter) Loddiges ex J. A. et Schultes, and *Washingtonia robusta* Wendland. The fungus and its development were described by Fischer (1) and its relationships worked out further by Killian (2). The incidence of the disease on palms in Florida is correlated with the occurrence of continuously high humidity.

**SYMPTOMS.** Infected leaves contain numerous dark, scab-like spots or warts with powdery brown or yellow centers (Fig. 1). Long flexuous sterile hyphae or threads may be seen with the aid of a hand lens.

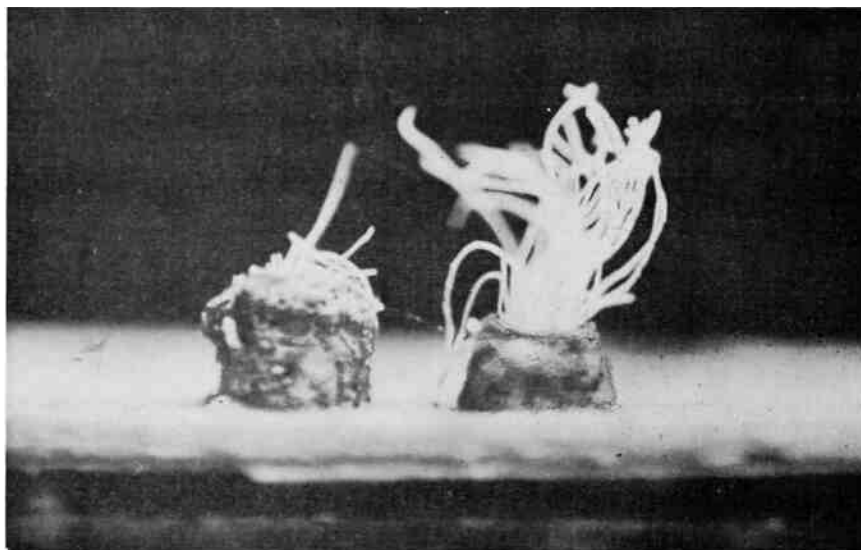


Fig. 1. Carbonaceous fungus structures with yellowish white flexuous hyphae formed on the leaflet surface.

**CONTROL.** Control of this disease is largely a matter of destroying infected leaflets but the regular application of a fungicide, fixed copper, will protect the uninfected foliage.

### Literature Cited

1. Fischer, Ed. 1883. Beitrag zur Kenntniss der Gattung *Graphiola*. Bot. Zeit., Nos. 45-48 incl.
2. Killian, Charles. 1924. Le development du *Graphiola phoenicis*, Poit. et ses affinites. Rev. Gen. de Botanique 36:385-394, 451-460.